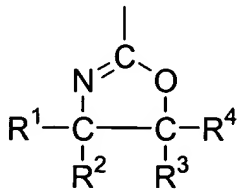
The Present Invention

Claim 1, as amended, relates to a photothermographic material comprising a support having provided on at least one side thereof a photosensitive silver halide, a photo-insensitive organic silver salt, a reducing agent for silver ion and a binder, wherein at least one layer constituting said photothermographic material comprises an oxazoline compound, with the proviso that the oxazoline compound is not oxazolidine.

Claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form and relates to a photothermographic material comprising a support having provided on at least one side thereof a photosensitive silver halide, a photo-insensitive organic silver salt, a reducing agent for silver ion and a binder, wherein at least one layer constituting said photothermographic material comprises an oxazoline compound, wherein said oxazoline compound is a compound having two or more 2-oxazolyl groups represented by the following formula (1) in the molecule,



(1)

wherein R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 each independently represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an alkyl group or an aryl group, wherein R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 each does not independently represent a hydrogen

atom at the same time, and the alkyl group or the aryl group may have a substituent.

The Hirabayashi et al. Patent

The Hirabayashi et al reference discloses heat development of a photosensitive material comprising a support having provided thereon a heat development photosensitive layer containing photosensitive silver halide, organic silver salt, reducing agent and binder. Column 8, lines 11-25 further discloses that an anti-foggant may be used. One type of anti-foggant among the numerous antifoggants disclosed in the Hirabayashi et al. reference that may be used is an oxazoline.

The Koyama et al Reference

Col. 10, lines 13-30 of the Koyama et al reference suggests the use of an oxazoline compound in a thermal sensitive image forming material. This oxazoline compound is present in a subbing layer on the information recording material, since the purpose of this layer is to improve adhesion.

Distinctions Between the Prior Art and the Present Invention

The present invention has been amended to exclude the presence of an oxazolidine compound. See claim 1, as amended. Similarly, claim 2 has been amended to exclude the case wherein R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 each represents a hydrogen atom at the same time. Accordingly, the invention, as amended, is free of the prior art.

The Examiner should further note that the change in fog in the present invention is smaller than in the prior art. That is, the effect of the smaller change in Dmin over time is not expected from the teachings of the Hirabayashi et al. reference alone or in combination with the Koyama et al. reference.

In view of the amendments to the claims and in view of the remarks hereinabove, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are respectfully requested.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant(s) respectfully petition(s) for a one month extension of time for filing a reply in connection with the present application, and the required fee of $110.00 is attached hereto.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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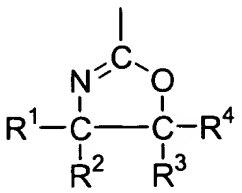
MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE CLAIMS

IN THE CLAIMS

The claims have been amended as follows:

Claim 1. (Amended) A photothermographic material comprising a support having provided on at least one side thereof a photosensitive silver halide, a photo-insensitive organic silver salt, a reducing agent for silver ion and a binder, wherein at least one layer constituting said photothermographic material comprises an oxazoline compound, with the proviso that the oxazoline compound is not oxazolidine.

Claim 2. (Amended) A photothermographic material comprising a support having provided on at least one side thereof a photosensitive silver halide, a photo-insensitive organic silver salt, a reducing agent for silver ion and a binder, wherein at least one layer constituting said photothermographic material comprises an oxazoline compound, [The photothermographic material as claimed in claim 1,] wherein said oxazoline compound is a compound having two or more 2-oxazolyl groups represented by the following formula (1) in the molecule,



(1)

wherein R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 each independently represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an alkyl group or an aryl group, wherein R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 each does not independently represent a hydrogen atom at the same time, and the alkyl group or the aryl group may have a substituent.

Claims 6-16 have been added.